

REMARKS

This amendment responds to the Office Action October 10, 2008, in which the Examiner rejected claims 20-39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Attached to this amendment is a certified translation of the priority document. Since the priority date of the present application is May 12, 1998, which is prior to the references cited in rejecting the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 20-39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Thus, it now appears that the Application is in condition for reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact, by telephone, the Applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: January 9, 2009

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